

The background of the cover is a photograph of a forest scene. In the foreground, several large, smooth, rounded boulders are scattered across the lower half of the frame. They have a mottled appearance with shades of grey, brown, and reddish-orange. Behind the rocks, a dense canopy of trees is visible, with leaves in various stages of autumn color, ranging from bright yellow and orange to deep red and brown. The lighting is soft, suggesting an overcast day. The title 'Missouri Resources' is superimposed on the upper portion of the image, with the subtitle 'Fall 2019 • Volume 36 • Number 4' centered below it.

Missouri Resources

Fall 2019 • Volume 36 • Number 4



Missouri Resources

Fall 2019 • Volume 36 • Number 4

GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI Michael L. Parson

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR Carol S. Comer

DEPUTY DIRECTOR Dru Buntin

DEPUTY DIRECTOR Katie Jo Wheeler

DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Jennifer Eddy

DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY Ed Galbraith

DIRECTOR, MISSOURI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY Joe Gillman

DIRECTOR, MISSOURI STATE PARKS Ben Ellis

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR Connie Patterson

DEPUTY COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR Susan Bloomer

EDITOR Andrew Richmond

DESIGN DIRECTOR Andrea Arwe

ASSOCIATE DESIGNER Cole Heimsath

PHOTOGRAPHERS Ben Nickelson

Andrew Richmond

EDITORIAL BOARD

Stacy Bandelier

Hylan Beydler

Susan Bloomer

Connie Patterson

Brian Quinn

ABOVE

A small ash tree turns autumn red as it grows between the cracks of a lichen-covered rock atop the mountain at Taum Sauk Mountain State Park.

MoDNR PHOTO BY BEN NICKELSON

ON THE FRONT COVER

Leaves turn shades of yellow and orange behind a pile of red granite boulders as fall colors peak at Elephant Rocks State Park.

MoDNR PHOTO BY BEN NICKELSON

ON THE BACK COVER

Equestrians ride under the Katy Trail Bridge on the Rock Island Spur near Windsor.

MoDNR PHOTO BY BEN NICKELSON

CONNECT WITH MoDNR



CONNECT WITH MISSOURI STATE PARKS



table of contents



4 Saving Missouri's Soil and Water for 75 Years

BY VAN BEYDLER

High rates of erosion during the Dust Bowl led to the creation of the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Districts in 1944.

8 Dam and Reservoir Safety in Missouri

BY JACOB ROHTER

A dam failure could be catastrophic, but the Dam and Reservoir Safety Program aims to ensure the worst never happens.

12 Passionate People=Great Parks=Passionate People

BY JENNIE SIEG

Working for Missouri State Parks isn't just another day in the office. A beautiful setting paired with a love for the outdoors keeps employees coming back – even after they retire!

departments

16 Geoscience Today

17 Did You Know?

18 Career Connection

19 Explore Missouri

21 Top Spots

23 Trail Highlight

25 With Gratitude

ABOVE

Nathan Boone State Historic Site, in Ash Grove, sits peacefully as the sun sets on a crisp early fall evening. The historic site offers interpretive tours of the home and cemetery.

MoDNR PHOTO BY BEN NICKELSON



SAVING MISSOURI'S SOIL AND WATER FOR *75 Years* **by Van Beydler**



PHOTO CREDIT NATIONAL ARCHIVES 195691

In the 1930s, Americans fully realized just how devastating soil erosion could be as the Dust Bowl swept across the nation, relocating an estimated 300 million tons of soil. Missouri had one of the highest rates of erosion in the nation, which led to the creation of the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Districts in 1944.

(Above) During the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, an estimated 300 million tons of soil were relocated due to erosion. Sometimes this soil swept up into dramatic dust clouds, such as one photographed in Rolla, Kansas, in May 1935.

(Right) Hugh Hammond Bennett, the father of soil conservation, inspects soil erosion in a field. Bennett served as the first chief of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, from 1935 until 1952.



PHOTO COURTESY OF USDA NRCS

Since the passage of the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax



Over \$772 million
has been used to support
Missouri Farmers



More than 255,000
structural and management
conservation practices implemented

After some of the dust blew all the way to Washington, D.C., dimming the sun, Hugh Hammond Bennett of the Soil Erosion Service sold President Franklin Roosevelt and Congress on the idea that something had to be done on a national scale. The Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service) was later created within the U.S. Department of Agriculture on April 27, 1935. In 1943, legislation that authorized the formation of the Soil and Water Districts Commission and Soil and Water Conservation Districts was passed in Missouri. In 1944, the first 14 districts were organized including Boone, Callaway, Cape Girardeau, Clark, Clay, Daviess, DeKalb, Franklin, Harrison, Gentry, Johnson, St. Charles, Shelby and Worth counties. All of Missouri's 114 counties would eventually organize districts, many of them during the 1960s.

The Soil and Water Districts Commission develops the policies and general programs, utilized by the districts, for preventing soil erosion and protecting water quality. The districts provide financial incentives, technical assistance and education to agricultural landowners and operators, working with state and federal conservation partners, and are funded through the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax, which is administered by the department's Soil and Water Conservation Program.



(Top left and above) Streambank erosion in Washington County was stabilized, keeping soil in place. One year after construction, plants have grown into the area, preventing further erosion.

MoDNR FILE PHOTOS



(Left and above) Districts provide technical and financial assistance to address erosion and water quality concerns.

MoDNR FILE PHOTOS

Missouri citizens have shown strong support for soil and water conservation and state parks by passing a one-tenth-of-one percent Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax. The tax was first approved by voters in 1984, and has since been reapproved by at least two-thirds of Missouri voters in 1988, 1996 and 2006. In 2016, 80% of Missouri voters once more approved a renewal, and it passed in every county. Half of the sales tax is deposited into the Soil and Water Sales Tax Fund, with the other half going to Missouri State Parks. The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax is placed on the ballot every 10 years to reaffirm voter support for the park system and soil and water conservation efforts. Missouri farmers have voluntarily implemented more than 255,000 structural and management conservation practices for cropland, hayland,

pastureland and woodlands supported by more than \$772 million from the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax since 1984.

Revenues from the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax have resulted in Missouri having the greatest soil erosion reduction rate of any other state with more than 10 million acres of cultivated cropland.

Learn more about the department's Soil and Water Conservation Program by visiting

dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp.

Van Beydler is a public information coordinator with the department's Division of Environmental Quality.

Timeline of the Soil and Water Conservation Program

1935
Soil Conservation Service created within the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

1943
Formation of Soil and Water Districts Commission and Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

1944
First 14 of the soil and water districts organized.

1944 to 1990s
Organization of all 114 Missouri counties.

1974
Soil and Water Districts Commission becomes part of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

1984
Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax first approved by voters.

1988, 1996, 2006, & 2016
Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax is renewed by more than two-thirds of Missouri voters.



Dam and Reservoir

SAFETY

in Missouri by Jacob Rohrer



Water rushes from a partial breach in the Glover Spring Lake Dam in Fulton, on Aug. 3, 2016, as department staff assess the damage. The department assisted Callaway County officials in evaluating the risks associated with the breach and advised landowners on repairs.

MoDNR PHOTO BY BEN NICKELSON

Dams are a critical part of our state's infrastructure, providing many benefits such as flood protection, water supply, hydropower, irrigation and recreation. While the benefits are many, failure of a dam can be catastrophic.

The department's Dam and Reservoir Safety Program works with citizens, dam owners, engineers and emergency managers to ensure dams in Missouri are constructed, maintained and operated in a safe manner. This is accomplished by regulation of all nonagricultural, nonfederal dams that are 35 feet or more in height, and by providing technical assistance and informational resources to dam owners and the general public.

The dam safety law, established in 1979 by House Bill 603, created the Dam and Reservoir Safety Council and the Dam and Reservoir Safety Program. The council is a group of volunteers, appointed by the Governor, who collectively represent the interests of dam owners, related industries, engineering professionals and the general public. Together with department staff, quarterly public meetings are held to conduct business related to dams in Missouri.

(Bottom) The first labyrinth weir spillway in Missouri was constructed as part of the Lake Winnebago Dam expansion in Cass County. Labyrinth weir spillways are designed to increase spillway capacity without lowering spillway crest.

MoDNR FILE PHOTO



(Above) A series of siphons are assembled to safely lower the level of a lake in order to reduce risk while repairs are made.

(Below) Staff conduct a routine visual inspection of a dam prior to renewing the owner's operating permit.

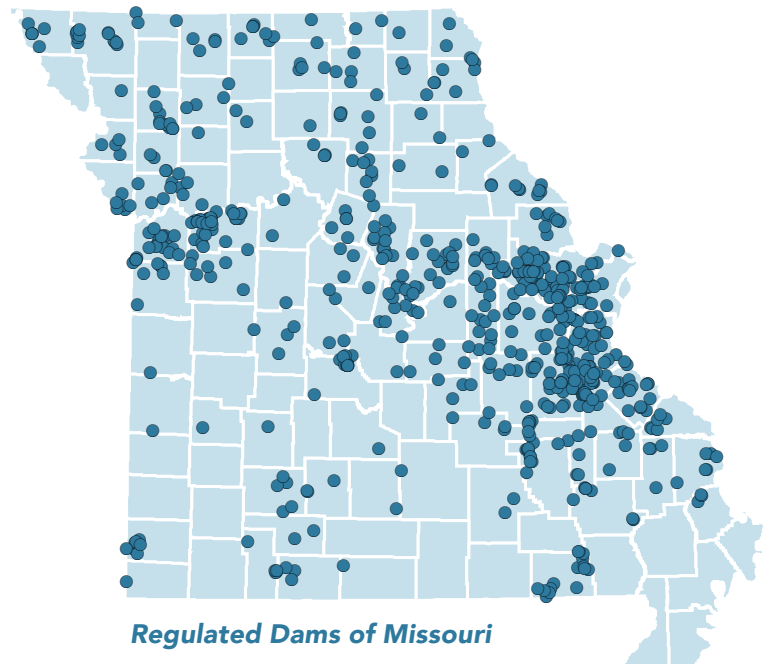
MoDNR FILE PHOTOS



The Dam and Reservoir Safety Program currently oversees 700 dams in Missouri. All dams are regularly inspected prior to permit renewal, which typically expires every two to five years, depending on downstream hazard. During inspections, each dam is surveyed and visually inspected for embankment stability, spillway capacity and general upkeep. A robotic inspection system is used to assess spillway pipe integrity. Additionally, the downstream is checked for new development in the possible inundation zone. A comprehensive report is sent to the owner and retained in the program's historical file for each dam. Currently more than 98% of regulated dams have a valid operating permit.

"Dam inspections are beneficial for both the dam owner and the downstream public. The specialized technical knowledge and services provided by the program are very valuable to us as dam operators," said Dan Buxton of Doe Run Company.

The program also responds to emergency situations in conjunction with local emergency management agencies, and assists owners in the installation of siphon systems and spillway bypass channels to safely lower water levels during emergencies. The program



assists owners of high-hazard dams in creating Emergency Action Plans, which provide general procedures to be used during an emergency. Learn more about dam safety online at dnr.mo.gov/geology/wrc/damsafety.htm.

Jacob Rohter is a technical assistant with the Missouri Geological Survey, a division of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Six people make up the Dam and Reservoir Safety Program, within the Missouri Geological Survey, a division of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. From left: David Donovan, Jerry Scheible, Program Director Ryan Stack, Joseph Wilson, Cara Blevins and Jacob Rohter.

MoDNR PHOTO BY MARK GORDON





PASSIONATE PEOPLE =
GREAT PARKS =

Passionate People

by Jennie Sieg



(Opposite Page) Fall maple leaves scatter across 1000th Mile Trail at Truman State Park.
(Above) Carl Bonnell, superintendent at Table Rock State Park, takes in a view of the Ozark Mountains near Branson.

MoDNR PHOTOS BY BEN NICKELSON

Working for Missouri State Parks isn't just another day in the office.

Behind every great state park system is a group of passionate employees. In turn, these employees draw their passion from the parks.

Missouri's state parks feature unique landscapes, awesome scenery and fascinating historic sites, but the best resource the state park system has is its dedicated employees. Many have spent their entire careers working for Missouri State Parks – careers spanning 30 to 40+ years. The state park system currently has 36 employees with 30+ years of service on the payroll. So, what drew these employees in and what keeps them coming to work each day – even for many years after they could retire?



Longtime Missouri State Parks employees Denny Bopp and Jack Winburn pose for a photo together during a Capitol Campout event at Jefferson Landing State Historic Site.

MoDNR PHOTO BY BEN NICKELSON

Choosing a Career

Roxie Campbell, park naturalist at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, said when she pursued a job with Missouri State Parks, “I wasn’t out to make a lot of money; rather, I was an idealist wanting to protect natural resources and help people enjoy them.” She said what has kept her coming back to work for the past 33 years is “taking care of the natural resources.” Also, it’s very rewarding when people attending programs express their joy and ‘ah-ha’ moments or kids say things like, “This is the best day of my life!”

Jack Winburn, who recently celebrated his 40th year with Missouri State Parks, chose his career path because of a love for the outdoors, which he credits to his dad. Many Missouri State Parks employees pursued their careers for a similar reason, then stayed around because of the mission: to preserve and interpret the state’s most outstanding natural landscapes and cultural landmarks and to provide outstanding recreational opportunities.

Jane Lale, a retiree, is one of those people. “Working in the exquisite natural and historic surroundings of our parks and historic sites is special,” said Lale. “Doing what we do is a wonderful, fulfilling career.”

The variety of work is one reason many love their job. According to Deb Schultehenrich, a retiree who spent more than 32 years in various positions, “No two days were the same, which was appealing to me. It could include mowing grass to removing skunks from the campground, to answering the same question 100 times during the summer season, to laying out hundreds of miles of trail, to planning new state parks and learning to deal with new park directors. It was all exciting. And, you certainly have the best office anyone could ever want!”

Carl Bonnell, park superintendent at Table Rock State Park with 39 years and counting, agrees. “You never know what each day has in store or what twists and turns each day will take,” said Bonnell.

Mike Dickey, site administrator at Arrow Rock State Historic Site with 35 years of service and counting said, “When I feel pressure and need to blow off steam, I can take a walk in my ‘outside office’ and decompress, but I am still working because I can see what needs attention at the facility.”

“Doing what we do is a wonderful, fulfilling career.”

JANE LALE

Changes

Many things have changed over the years, the most important being the passage of and the benefits received from the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax, which is the primary funding source for the state park system. Many state parks employees, current and past, spent hours of their personal time collecting signatures and campaigning for the sales tax.

On another note, Bonnell mentioned the change in “all the stuff campers feel like they have to bring with them on a camping trip -- from LED rope lights strung out throughout the campsites, hammocks, hover boards and drones, to the occasional swimming pool or bounce house.”

And now there is a new generation who may be considering a career in state parks. Current and retired employees say they would encourage a new generation to pursue such a career. George Kastler, a retiree who served 45 years as a park naturalist, said, “I have always encouraged young folks to consider a career with Missouri state parks and historic sites and I still do.”



Park Naturalist Roxie Campbell leads a hike at Rock Bridge State Park (c. 2004).

MoDNR FILE PHOTO



Mike Dickey celebrates the ribbon cutting of the J. Huston Tavern “Summer Kitchen” in Arrow Rock, which kept the tavern open while repairs were made to the original structure after it was damaged in a fire. Dickey is the superintendent of Arrow Rock State Historic Site, as well as the Saline County Rural Fire Protection District chief, and was instrumental in saving the historic building.

MoDNR PHOTO BY ANDREW RICHMOND

Staying Involved

The enthusiasm and passion for the state park system has followed employees into retirement. Many retirees belong to or are heavily involved with the Missouri Parks Association (MPA), an organization that supports Missouri State Parks. This involvement is beneficial as a lot of knowledge about the state park system walks out the door with employees when they retire. Some of the long-term employees who are still working already have plans to be involved with Missouri State Parks after retirement by either volunteering, joining MPA or just getting out and enjoying state parks and historic sites as a visitor. Dickey says after he retires, he will still make himself available for questions related to the historic sites he oversees “because I know stuff that is not necessarily written down or easy to find in archives.”

Over the years, many employees have found their colleagues to be like an extended family. Because neither their passion for the state park system nor their friendships with colleagues were left on the doorstep when they walked out the door. Both are lifetime loyalties.

Jennie Sieg recently retired after more than 19 years as an information specialist for the department’s Division of State Parks.

Magmont Mine Site Subject of National Award

by Bill Zeaman

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources nominated Teck American Incorporated for the Interstate Mining Compact Commission's 2019 National Non-Coal Category Reclamation award, which was accepted in May. The award is intended to identify and recognize companies that maintain compliance and apply innovative techniques to reclaim land following mining activities.

Teck's Magmont Mine, located in Reynolds County, won because they remained in compliance, welcomed and implemented suggestions made by the department and utilized innovative mining techniques and high-quality reclamation activities. The award was presented to Dave Enos, manager of dormant properties for Teck American Incorporated, on May 8, in Tucson, Arizona.

On December 27, 2017, Carol Comer, director of the Department of Natural Resources, released 318-acres of the 371-acre bonded area under the Metallic Minerals Waste Management Act.

Teck consistently exceeded the spirit and intent of the law in regard to closure and reclamation at Magmont Mine. Production of lead, zinc and copper concentrates began at the mine site in 1968 and reclamation activities started before cessation of mining on May 26, 1994.

Revegetation activities on the Magmont tailings area began in 1992

with an innovative pilot planting on a 30-acre test plot. The pilot planting was performed to evaluate the capability of native grasses to grow on cover material, and to inform reclamation planners about erosion and soil conditioning needs.

"Teck has been conducting reclamation monitoring and maintenance in close coordination with the department since 1996,"

and other DNR agency staff from our operation of the Magmont Mine in the Viburnum Trend. In the early 1990s when we started mine reclamation, DNR helped us create our post-mining vision of reclaiming the land to benefit native wildlife. As we completed our reclamation in the 2000s, Land Reclamation Program staff guided us toward compliance with the various DNR programs. The process was rigorous, as it should be, but never frustrating as environmental programs can sometimes be," said Enos. "My personal experience has been extremely positive. Bill Zeaman, Ashley Harrison, her predecessor Beth Aubuchon and others have encouraged us to set mutually-beneficial site reclamation goals, and we have worked collaboratively as we took the steps needed to obtain those goals."

The department works closely with Teck and others to ensure mined lands are returned to beneficial use. Learn more about Teck's award online at imcc.isa.us/awards.html. Read about Teck by visiting their website at teck.com/responsibility/featured-topics/aftermining/.

A video about Magmont Mine and other reclamation projects in Missouri is online at youtu.be/sWZjs_LWUXs.

Bill Zeaman is the Industrial and Metallic Minerals Mining unit chief of the Missouri Geological Survey's Land Reclamation Program, a division of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.



The National Reclamation award was presented to Tech American Corporation on May 8, 2019, in Tuscon. Pictured, from left to right, are Fernando Martinez (New Mexico) Interstate Mining Compact Commission Executive Committee Chairman, Larry Lehman, MoDNR Land Reclamation Program, Dave Enos, Teck American Inc., Bill Zeaman MoDNR Land Reclamation Program, and Thomas Clarke, Interstate Mining Compact Commission Executive Director.

PHOTO COURTESY INTERSTATE MINING COMPACT COMMISSION

said Larry Lehman, Land Reclamation Program director with the department's Missouri Geological Survey.

Groundwater monitoring has been conducted from 1991 to present. The site met the revegetation success criteria of greater than 80% coverage in 2006 and exceeds 90% today.

"Teck American Incorporated has a long history of working alongside the Land Reclamation Program

(Right) Revegetation activities on the mine's tailings area began in 1992 with an innovative pilot planting on a 30-acre test plot.

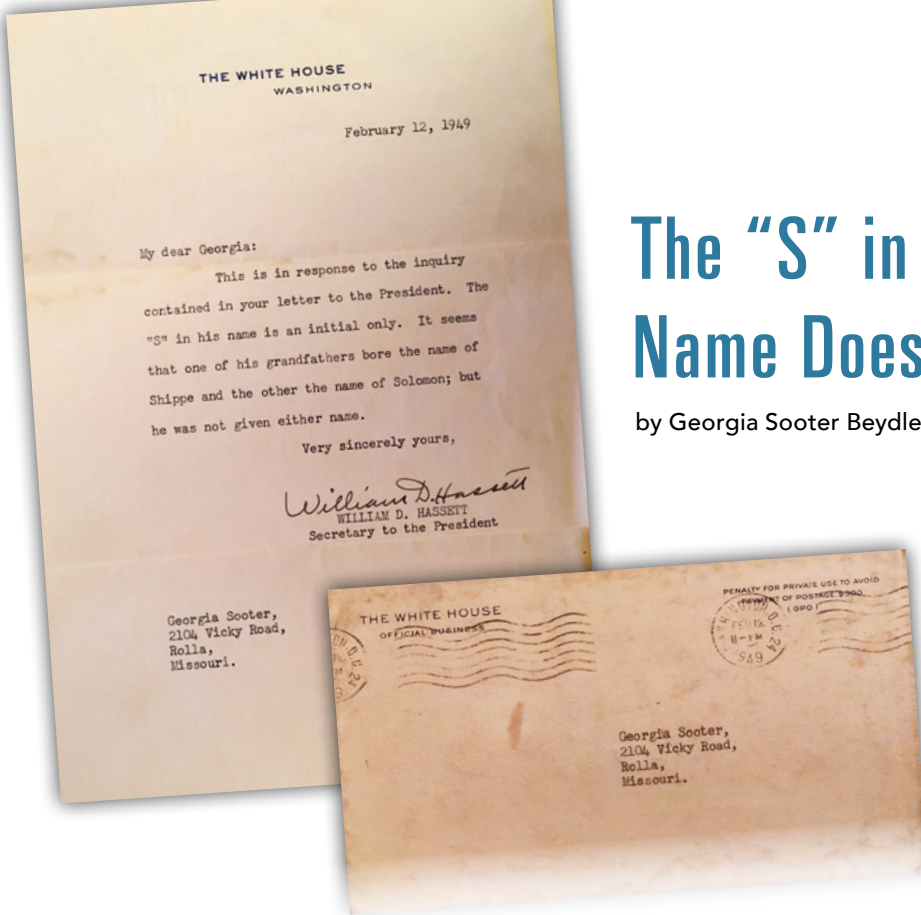
(Far Right) Teck American Incorporated consistently exceeded the spirit and intent of the law in regard to closure and reclamation at Magmont Mine, as evidenced in this view of the reclaimed area.

MoDNR FILE PHOTOS



The "S" in Harry S Truman's Name Does Not Need a Period

by Georgia Sooter Beydler



A young Georgia Sooter Beydler, photographed around the time she wrote a letter to President Truman.

PHOTO COURTESY GEORGIA SOOTER BEYDLER

In 1949 and 1950, I attended 7th and 8th grades in Rolla at Benton School, which was built in 1909. Missouri native Harry S Truman was our President then and my parents and I had great respect for him. One very clear memory I have of school days in Rolla is of the day — 70 years ago — I decided to write a letter to the President.

A classroom discussion about the President's name prompted me to verify what I knew as true concerning his middle initial and the names of his grandfathers. I shared this information with the class and I had the feeling not everyone believed me. So, during the first week of February 1949, I wrote and mailed a letter to the President to get confirmation. About a week later, I arrived home from school and my mother met me at the door with excitement. She said, "Look what you got in the mail today from the White House!"

We were very excited and she had scissors ready to cut open the envelope, as one certainly would not tear an envelope with a return address that said, "THE WHITE HOUSE – OFFICIAL BUSINESS."

We were thrilled as we read each word, especially "My dear Georgia" as the salutation from the Secretary to the President. The letter went on to say that President Truman's parents decided to give him the initial "S," with no period, in place of a middle name. The gesture was in honor of his grandfathers, Shippe and Solomon.

Later, and with much pride, I shared the letter with my classmates at school, who also reveled in the fact that I had received a letter from the White House with confirmation about the President's middle initial. None of us knew anyone who had received a letter from the White House. As an aside, I believe most Rolla residents will notice Vicky Road was spelled "Vicky" on the envelope and letter, but our postmaster and mailman made sure this very special correspondence made it to our home.

Editor's note: Missouri State Parks, a division of the Department of Natural Resources, operates both Harry S Truman Birthplace State Historic Site and Harry S Truman State Park. Learn more online at mostateparks.com.

Georgia Sooter Beydler and her husband, Bill, live in Springfield, Missouri, and are the grandparents of two. Two of their five children are members of the department's Communications staff; Van Beydler, public information coordinator for the Division of Environmental Quality in Jefferson City, and Hylan Beydler, division information officer for the Missouri Geological Survey, a division of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

The letter is a treasured possession Beydler has saved for 70 years.

MoDNR PHOTO BY SAM BEYDLER



Aarick Roberto

Training Technician

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Human Resources Program



How long have you worked for MoDNR? Describe your day-to-day job.

I've worked for DNR since 2011, so it'll be eight years at the end of this year. Currently, I'm a trainer for the entire department, and so I train all employees for civil rights and diversity, new employee orientation and basic

orientation for supervisors. We train the current employees and new employees that are coming in on what's expected of them, as well as any kind of professional development that they would require or need throughout their entire tenure.

What do you like most about working at MoDNR?

I enjoy working with the people. That was one of the things that I really enjoyed when I started. I worked with the individuals who were in the air program, but as I moved up from the air program into where I'm at now in the Division of Administrative Services, I'm in more of a customer service role. We deal with every employee within the department and that's one thing I like, helping people.

How do you feel that your job helps to enhance Missouri's natural resources?

We make sure that every employee has the correct attitude when going out into the field. We want to make sure that they love the job that they're in, because how we interact with them does reflect on how they interact with the public, so that's really important to us.

What would you tell someone thinking about a career with MoDNR?

This is a great place to work. There's no greater job than helping other people and we're not only helping the people of Missouri, we're also helping the environment. We can only handle what we have here so trying to make our natural resources better will help and benefit every single person who visits Missouri, lives here or will live here in the future. What I would tell them if they wanted to work here is to apply, please. We need people who are forward thinking and open-minded, as well as those that may have a different perspective.



Is there anything else you would like to add?

I never thought that I would work in government. I started out my career in retail and I never thought that I would work in an area that was so connected to the public, where everybody has their eyes on you, because you make a difference. Even if you work here thinking that you don't do anything at all, you are the ones that are making the difference for the community. No matter how small the job, from an administrative professional all the way up to executive staff, every single person makes a difference for the state of Missouri.



(Top & Bottom) Roberto makes certain that all employees receive the training necessary to be effective public servants, whether it's new employee orientation or professional development throughout their career with the department.

MoDNR PHOTOS BY BEN NICKELSON



**Watch Roberto's
interview on YouTube.**



Missouri State Parks staff examine a scour hole located on the east end of Katy Trail State Park, near Machens.

MoDNR PHOTO BY LISA ADAMS

Katy Trail Cleanup Under Way

by Jim Malven

Crews from Missouri State Parks have begun clearing and repairing sections of Katy Trail State Park in an effort to restore the trail and provide greater access to users.

explore

Large amounts of snow and rainfall during the first half of the year caused the Missouri River to swell and spill onto the Katy Trail, which closely follows the river in many areas. By the end of May, nearly 100 miles of the trail were closed due to flooding, leading to the cancellation of the 2019 Katy Trail Ride.

Floodwaters finally receded in July, allowing for damage assessment and trail cleanup to begin. Since then, Missouri State Parks staff have been removing debris such as mud, limbs, sand and litter and trimming tree canopies to allow for heavy equipment to access effected areas. In addition, Missouri State Parks has hosted three public volunteer cleanup events at the park.

About 75% of the trail affected by flooding earlier in the year has reopened as of September. A variety of repairs still need to be made. Some portions of the trail need only minor repairs, like improved surfacing, while others require more costly and time-consuming repairs, such as a bridge replacement. It is unclear when the trail will be fully restored, but Missouri State Parks is committed to once again providing this outstanding resource to the public.

Due to varying factors, such as precipitation and water levels, closures on the Katy Trail change frequently. To see a full list of closures, detours and advisories for Katy Trail State Park, visit mostateparks.com/advisories?parks=53010. This page is updated with new information daily.

You can contribute to the effort to restore one of Missouri's favorite state parks with monetary donations by visiting mostateparks.com/page/82026/katy-trail-flood-donations. Those who make a contribution of \$100 or more receive a limited edition Katy Trail State Park t-shirt as a token of appreciation.

Jim Malven is a public information specialist with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Division of State Parks.



In preparation for cleanup and rebuilding efforts, Missouri State Parks staff cut low-hanging or dead tree branches and cleared debris along Katy Trail State Park, near Tebbetts.

MoDNR PHOTOS BY BEN NICKELSON

Help rebuild the Katy!

Donate \$100 and
receive this T-shirt.



For more information,
visit mostateparks.com



Top Spots **TO TRICK-OR-TREAT**



In addition to trick-or-treating in the campground, park guests can also take part in spooky tours of Onondaga Cave.

MO DNR PHOTO BY BEN NICKELSON

As we near the end of October, Missouri's state parks and historic sites are getting into the Halloween spirit. Several locations will host Halloween-themed events, with the following parks offering trick-or-treating on Saturday, Oct. 26.



Onondaga Cave State Park: Spooky Cave Tours

Trick-or-treating will begin in the park campground at 5:30 p.m. The park will also offer spooky tours of Onondaga Cave and other Halloween activities.

Sam A. Baker State Park: Halloween Bash

This event will start with trick-or-treating at 4 p.m. Activities will also include Halloween games, a haunted hike and a campsite decorating contest.



St. Francois State Park: Halloween Weekend

Trick-or-treating will occur in the campground from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Campers are responsible for providing candy. There will also be a costume contest and a campsite decorating contest.

Washington State Park: Halloween Hootenanny

The Saturday festivities will kick off with a chili supper fundraiser at 4 p.m., followed by trick-or-treating at 6:30 p.m. Throughout the weekend, there will be a scavenger hunt and Halloween crafts, and campers can participate in a campsite decorating contest.



(Above, Top to Bottom) All of the parks listed will have trick-or-treating in their campgrounds, and Halloween activities are scheduled throughout the weekend.

MoDNR FILE PHOTOS

Additional Halloween events will be held at Montauk, Thousand Hills and Wallace state parks and Bollinger Mill State Historic Site. For more information, visit mostateparks.com/events.



Ben Nagy joined the department's division of Missouri State Parks as trail coordinator in July. He plans to apply his experience and enthusiasm for the outdoors toward making trails accessible to everyone.

MoDNR PHOTO BY BEN NICKELSON

NEW TRAIL COORDINATOR BRINGS ENTHUSIASM FOR TRAILS, OUTDOORS TO STATE PARKS

When Ben Nagy joined Missouri State Parks as the division's trail coordinator in July, he brought with him several years of trails experience and a strong enthusiasm for the outdoors.

trailhighlight

Nagy's experience includes working as a recreation leader within the Columbia Parks and Recreation trails and biking programs, as well as serving as commissioner for the Show-Me-State Games mountain biking event. In addition, he is a founding member of the Columbia Missouri Trail Association, a group dedicated to the development and maintenance of trails in the Columbia area.

As trail coordinator, he is now responsible for providing statewide oversight for the trails of Missouri's state parks and historic sites.

Nagy says that he is passionate about trails because they can be used by almost everyone and do not require any kind of special equipment.

"They are a great resource for people to get outside and enjoy," he said. "A lot of people might not realize they have great trails right in their backyard."

Nagy loves not only spending as much time as possible outdoors himself, he also enjoys getting others outside – especially those who are not traditional users of parks.

"As a member of state parks, I want to help make trails accessible to all people who come and visit the awesome park system we have in Missouri," he said.

There are more than 1,000 miles of trails in Missouri's state parks. If you are trying to decide which one you'd like to visit first, access the Trails of Missouri State Parks interactive map at dnr.mo.gov/trails and head to mostateparks.com for more information.



Nagy isn't afraid to get his hands dirty. As trail coordinator, he is now responsible for providing statewide oversight for the trails of Missouri's state parks and historic sites.

MoDNR PHOTO BY BEN NICKELSON

Belinda Hughes

Leaves Legacy at Missouri Resources

by Andrew Richmond

For nearly eight years, I sat next to Belinda Hughes here in our publications office. We often shared a “look” around the side of our computer monitors, much the same way the characters of *The Office* TV show would trade faces across the room in acknowledgement of office hijinks. The timing of her humor kept everything moving around here, especially when things were tense. She knew a lot of corny jokes and would pull them out to instantly lighten the mood. They say humor boosts creative thinking, so it’s no surprise she was an accomplished artist and designer.

The aesthetic of *Missouri Resources* was shaped by Belinda when she picked up the reins as design director for the Fall 2004 issue. Before that, Belinda served as associate designer, and beyond her magazine duties, she routinely prepared brochures, displays, fact sheets, web graphics, and various other items needed throughout the department. We have filing cabinets full of old projects she worked on, some of which were as simple as a business card, spanning upwards to massive displays for the Missouri State Fair. She was most gratified when the fruits of her labor resulted in a box of printed materials arriving at her desk. She would immediately open them up and smell the fresh ink with a smile, and eventually we all started doing the same.

Longtime readers of *Missouri Resources* will notice this issue of the magazine looks a little different. Belinda passed away unexpectedly at the end of April. We now have new staff who have picked up where she left off, and as they move forward, I see no better example for them than the work that Belinda left behind. She leaves a legacy of nearly 21 years where she filled an important role by effectively communicating to the public the importance of protecting Missouri’s natural resources.

We owe a large amount of gratitude to Belinda’s family, especially her two children Josh and Adam, for lending her to us. She was a proud mother, and we wish her family the very best as they, like us, pursue a new normal in her absence.

withgratitude



You can help in the effort to rebuild Katy Trail State Park after severe flooding caused damage along the trail. Accelerate the restoration process by making a donation to the Missouri State Parks Foundation. Everyone who donates \$100 or more will receive a T-shirt commemorating their role in rebuilding this Missouri treasure. Visit **mostateparks.com** for more information.



dnr.mo.gov

